

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:PJGLASOE:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

NEA/ARN - MR. DEFORD

CAB - MR. MURPHY (INFO)

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R 142138Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, LE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS

1. CIVIL AVIATION CONSULTATIONS, WHICH BEGAN HERE FEB. 12, ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY FEBRUARY 14. LEBANESE PRESSED FOR TWO THINGS. FIRST AND PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT (AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, AT LEAST) WAS SOME TYPE OF CONTROL OR ASSURANCES RE PAN AM'S PLANNED OPERATIONS ON THE LONDON-BEIRUT SECTOR. LEBANESE NEVER MADE CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE SEEKING IN THIS REGARD, BUT STRESSED THAT THIS MARKET IS THE BREAD AND BUTTER ONE FOR MEA AND THAT THERE WAS REAL CONCERN THAT INTRODUCTION OF NONSTOP SERVICE BY PAN AM WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT DROP IN MEA SHARE OF MARKET (AT PRESENT OVER 60 PERCENT). SECOND REQUEST WAS THAT TMA BE GRANTED TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND FAR EAST IN WESTBOUND DIRECTION. CASE BASED ON FACT THAT RISING FUEL COSTS MADE IT VERY COSTLY OPERATE THIS SERVICE BETWEEN EUROPE AND FAR EAST WITHOUT SOME FILL-UP TRAFFIC OUT OF NEW YORK, AND THAT AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC TMA WOULD CARRY WOULD BE DROP IN BUCKET IN OVERALL US-FAR EAST AIR CARGO MARKET.

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2. WE WERE NOT IN POSITION GRANT TMA REQUEST FOR SAME REASONS WE HAD MANY TIMES DISCUSSED WITH LEBANESE. CONCERNING MEA'S PROBLEM, WE OFFERED TO SIGN A MEMO OF CONSULTATION WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE LEBANESE CONCERNS AND PROMISE

THAT US WOULD KEEP CLOSE WATCH OVER PAN AM OPERATIONS AND, IF IT APPEARED AFTER SOME EXPERIENCE THAT THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MEA, WE WOULD CONSULT AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RECTIFY THE MATTER. THIS DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH FOR LEBANESE. (IT MIGHT HAVE SATISFIED BEYDOUN, BUT WE BELIEVE MEA AND TMA OPPOSED HIS SIGNING ANY SUCH PAPER.) BEYDOUN SAID LEBANESE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AND PRESENT THE ISSUE TO THE GOL FOR FINAL RESOLUTION. NO ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR RESUMING THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. WE WILL PROVIDE IN SUBSEQUENT CABLE MORE DETAILED EXPOSITION POSITIONS PRESENTED BY EACH SIDE SINCE IT POSSIBLE EMBASSY WILL BE HEARING FROM GOL ON THE SUBJECT. KISSINGER

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